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He's back! Five hundred pounds of unstoppable terror! The TERMINATOR! But now, it's the year 2031, and the battle between humanity and The Terminators continues! Non-stop action and suspense!
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RALPH SNART ADVENTURES VOL. III NO. 1
By Marc Hansen
The SNARTSTER is back! The comic that gave you lizard PITs, and the Devil's worse curse is back! All new covers and full color giant centerspread pin-ups! This issue's pin-up is of the terrible DR. GOOT!
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RACER-X 1
Super-technology, super-cars, super-gadgets, and the ultimate super-agent! The first issue of this regular monthly series is guaranteed to keep you on the edge of your seat. You will, for the first time anywhere really see a super-spy in action! The Rex Racer no one has ever seen!
Full-Color Baxter Monthly $1.75US/$2.25CANADA

THE ORIGINAL ASTRO BOY 12

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ILLUSTRATED BY
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LETTERED BY
ANDREW PRATT
COVER BY
KEN STEACY
ORIGINAL STORY AND CHARACTERS BY
DR. OSAMU TEZUKA

THE NOW COMICS ANNUAL UPDATE!

I've decided to start an annual update every summer on the inside front cover of our books. This will keep all our readers ahead of the game in information!

Let's see, this summer we have an incredible line-up of books!

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS, THE TERMINATOR, which is set in the post-nuclear war future--where mankind is fighting for survival against the technology it originally created.

RUST, SPEED RACER,- with the fantastic new art of Joe Phillips.

RACER-X, THE ORIGINAL ASTRO BOY, FRIGHT NIGHT, which follows the regular monthly adventures of Peter Vincent and Charley Brewster, the Vampire Killers of the '90's!

And for the people who enjoy side-splitting, knee-slapping, eye-popping, and nose-blowing humor, should try the monthly adventures of a C.P.A gone mad! RALPH SNART ADVENTURES, called the funniest comic book by millions! (Okay, okay... thousands.) A must for anyone who's laughed within the past five hours.

A few of our other surprises for this year include the SPEED RACER CLASSICS VOLUME ONE and TWO. This 225 page paperback translates the original SPEED RACER comics by SPEED's Japanese creator: Tatsuo Yoshida! VOLUME ONE will be on sale in late August and sell for only $3.75! Also including a fantastic wrap-around cover by Mitch O' Connell! VOLUME TWO will ship for Christmas sales with an extra added bonus.

For those of you who can't wait until August, the SPEED RACER SPECIAL EDITION NUMBER ONE will be available in late July with two unique SPEED RACER stories, and ten pages of super-high--tech airbrush illustrations of how the fabulous MACH 5 works! All this and a giant pin-up too!

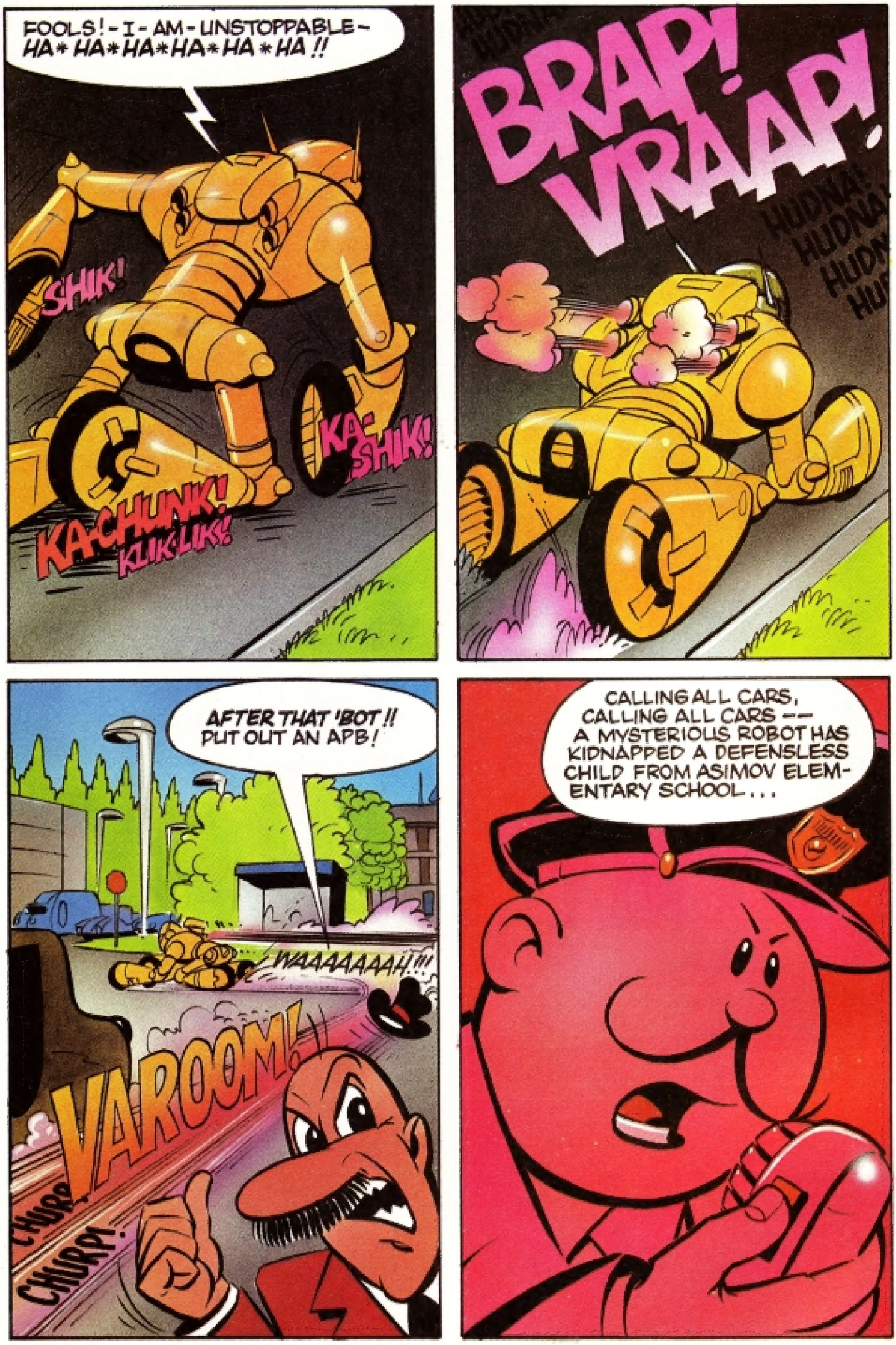
Stick around, we've some more surprises up our sleeves! For anymore information just write us-- or better yet write us a letter with your comments. The address is NOW COMICS, 332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1540, Chicago, IL 60604. And remember, COMICS...the future is NOW!

Tony Caputo
Publisher

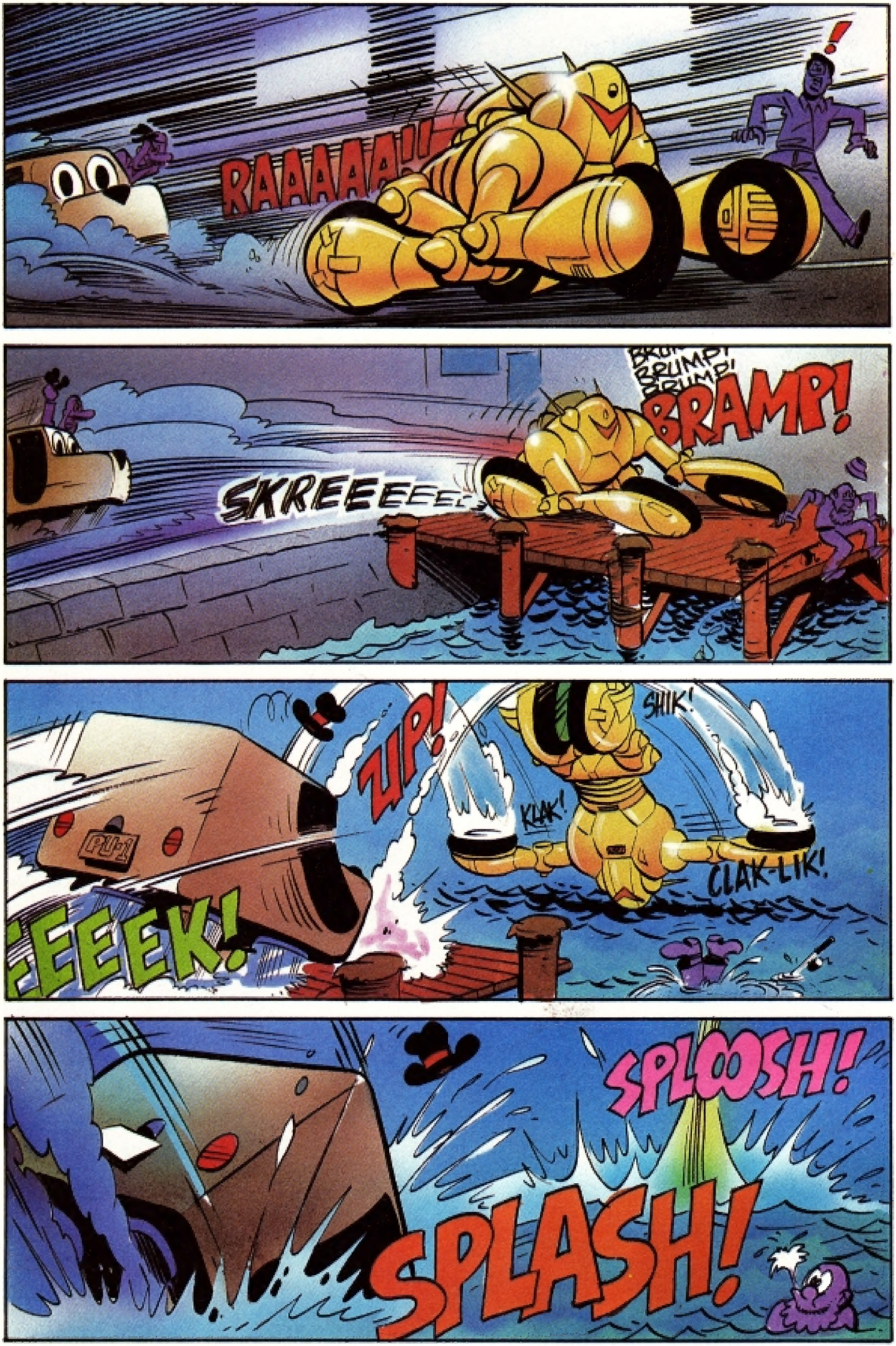
ALRIGHT, CLASS, PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS — SAY, WHO'S MISSING?
LET'S SEE — THERE'S ASTRO AND KRISTAL KLEER, PORGY TYREBITER, MELANIE HABER, AUDREY FARBER, BETTYJO BIALOWSKI, MUDHEAD McNUTT, ERNIE SCHICKELGRUBER — SAY, WHERE'S ARCHIE BARGY?!
HE'S PROBABLY SKIPPING OUT AND SMOKING CIGARETTES BEHIND THE GYM!
HE WAS CHASING TIMMY WHEN THE BELL RANG, SIR.
I'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK FOR THEM — CLASS, CALL UP SECTION 17/A, SUBSECTION 433 AND WORK ON THOSE PROBLEMS UNTIL I GET BACK.

AAAAGH!!
LEMME GO!! LEMMEGO!!
WAH-HAHAHAHAHA——
I DON'T WANNA DIE!!
LEMME GO!!
QUIT-SQUIRMING-AND-YOU-WON'T-GET-HURT-YOU-BRAT!
GET-IN-THERE!!
·GYM·
THE AWESOME MENACE
OF MEGATHREAT!

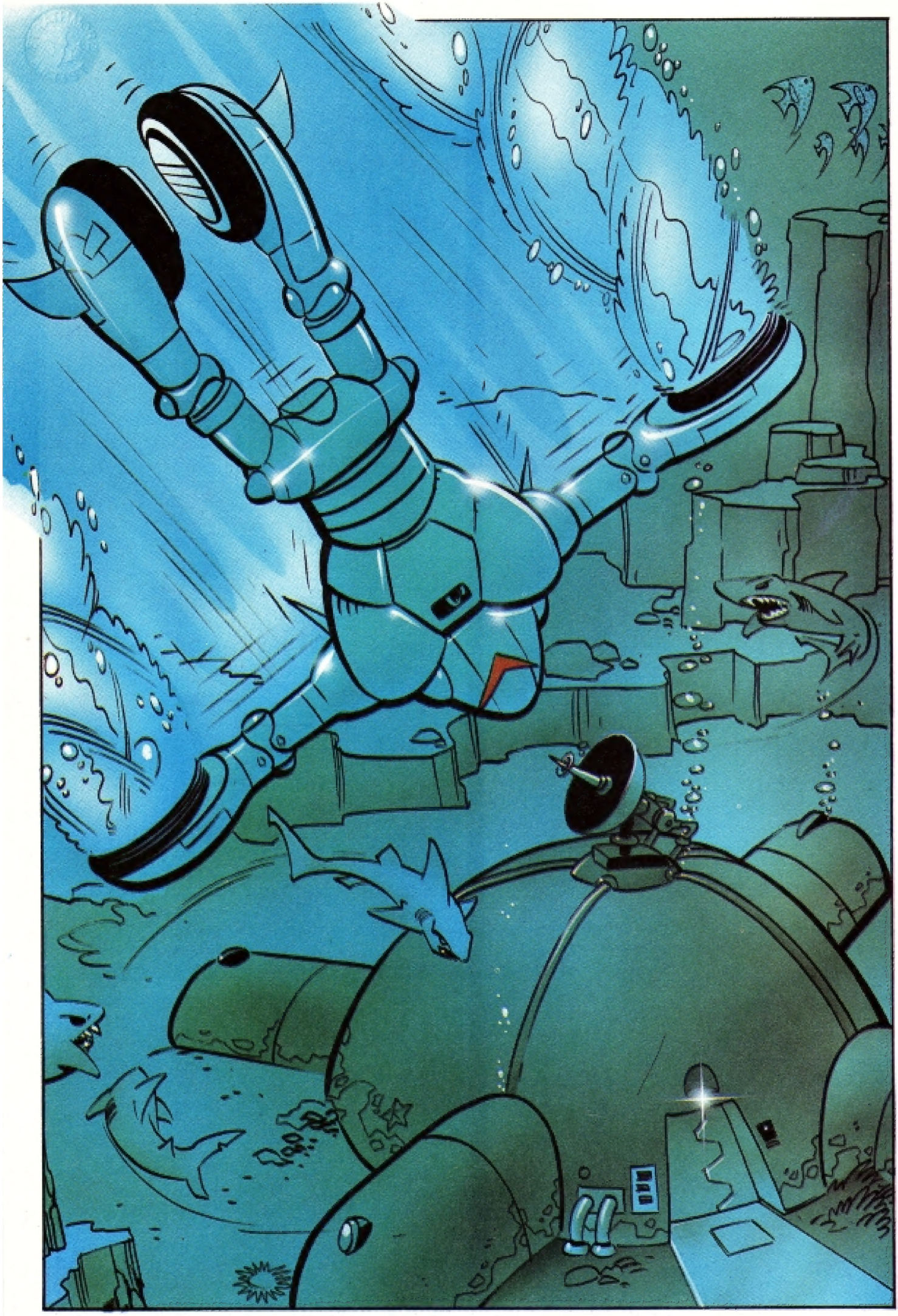
WELL INSPECTOR GUMSHOE, I'D SAY THAT LITTLE ROBOT ASTRO DEFUSED A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION QUITE WELL!
I SUPPOSE, CHIEF — BUT THIS ROBORIGHTS BILL HAS RUBBED A LOT OF PEOPLE THE WRONG WAY!
STAND-ASIDE-PUNY-HUMANS-OR FACE-THE-WRATH-OF-MEGATHREAT!!
HELP! MOTHER!
GOSHAROOTIE!!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BOLTBUCKET— YOU'RE IN DIRECT CONTRAVENTION OF BYLAW AA14B — "NO ROBOT MAY ENTER SCHOOL PROPERTY UNLESS ON OFFICIAL --
-- BUSINESS" ?!
ZAPP!


FOOLS! - I - AM - UNSTOPPABLE - HA * HA * HA * HA * HA * HA !!
SHIK!
KA-SHIK!
KA-CHUNK! KLIK-LIK!
BRAP! VRAAP!
HUDNA! HUDNA! HUDNA! HUDNA!
AFTER THAT 'BOT !! PUT OUT AN APB!
WAAAAAAAH!!!
VAROOM!
CHURP!
CHURP!
CALLING ALL CARS, CALLING ALL CARS -- A MYSTERIOUS ROBOT HAS KIDNAPPED A DEFENSLESS CHILD FROM ASIMOV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

...PROCEEDING VIA ANTELOPE FREEWAY TOWARDS "B" STREET AND HARBOUR DRIVE...
GOOD GRIEF!
WHAT IS IT, ASTRO?
JUST A LITTLE, UH- HEADACHE, KRIS. I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC' --
NOT
NO POINT IN MAKING A SPECTACLE OF MYSELF IN FRONT OF THE KIDS...
HANG ON, ARCHIE, I'M COMING !!
ASIMOV· ELE NTARY· SCHOOL

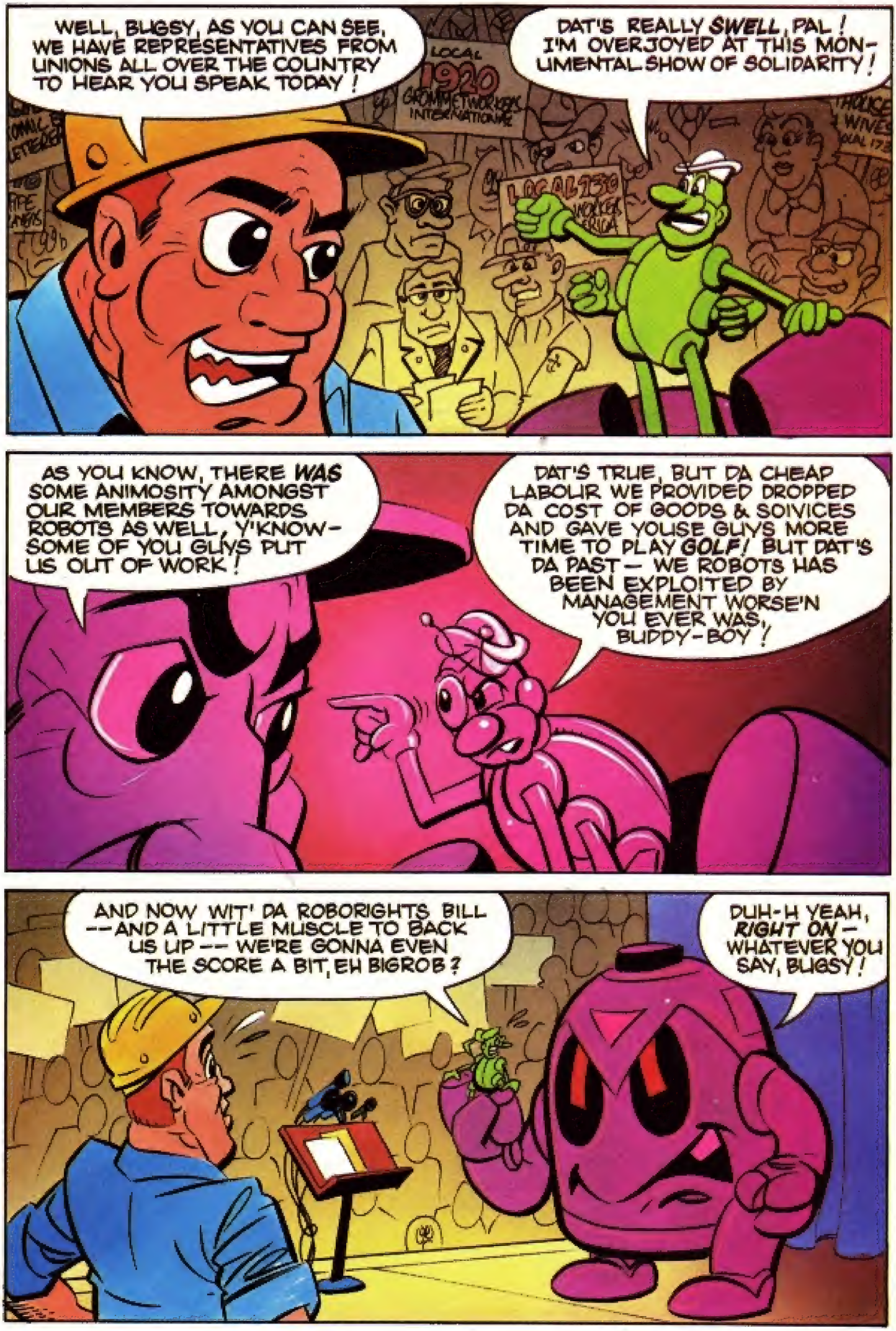

RAAAAA!!!
BRUMP! BRUMP! BRUMP!
BRAMP!
SKREEEEEE...
EEEK!
PUP!
ZUP!
SHIK!
KLAK!
CLAK-LIK!
SPLOOSH!
SPLASH!

ARE YOU OKAY ?
SPUTTER! GAG! CHOKE!
YEAH, NOTHING A GOOD STIFF BELT OF – ER, I MEAN A NICE HOT CUPPA COFFEE WON'T FIX!
ASTRO, THAT STRANGE ROBOT HAS MADE OFF WITH YOUR CLASS-MATE FOR REASONS THAT ARE UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT IN TIME –!
REENK! SQUINK!
DON'T WORRY, CHIEF – I'LL GET HIM BACK! I – – GEE – I FEEL ODD!



GREETINGS - MASTER - I - HAVE - RETURNED - WITH - THE - BAIT - AS - PER - YOUR - INSTRUCTION
WELL DONE MY MINDLESS SLAVE! TAKE HIM TO THE HOLDING AREA!
TAKE ME HOME YOU GEEK!
BOOT!
EEEEE-YOWCH!
RESTRAIN THAT LITTLE MONSTER!!
GETCHER MITS OFFA ME! WHEN MY DADDY HEARS ABOUT THIS YER GONNA BE IN DEEP - MRFFLE - MUFFLE - URF!!

BOY, THIS BETTER BE WORTH ALL THIS TROUBLE —
AGENT R TO MEGACORP — COME IN MEGA —
YEAH, YEAH — WHAT IS IT NOW?
IT IS I, OH TERRIBLE ONE, YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT WHO CRAVES ONLY —
KNOCK OFF THAT JAZZ — HOW IS THE PLAN PROCEEDING?
OH — UH, WELL WE SNATCHED ONE OF HIS PALS, LIKE YOU SAID, SO WE FIGURE ASTRO WILL BE HERE REAL SOON!
IS OUR LITTLE RECEPTION READY?
YESSIR, YOU BETCHA!
ALL RIGHT, THIS BETTER WORK! I WANT THAT LITTLE 'BOT!
JEEZ, I WISH I HAD MY OLD DESK JOB BACK AGAIN!
CLIK!


WELL, BUGSY, AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNIONS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO HEAR YOU SPEAK TODAY!
DAT'S REALLY SWELL, PAL! I'M OVERJOYED AT THIS MONUMENTAL SHOW OF SOLIDARITY!
LOCAL 1920
AS YOU KNOW, THERE WAS SOME ANIMOSITY AMONGST OUR MEMBERS TOWARDS ROBOTS AS WELL, Y'KNOW- SOME OF YOU GUYS PUT US OUT OF WORK!
DAT'S TRUE, BUT DA CHEAP LABOUR WE PROVIDED DROPPED DA COST OF GOODS & SOIVICES AND GAVE YOUSE GUYS MORE TIME TO PLAY GOLF! BUT DAT'S DA PAST— WE ROBOTS HAS BEEN EXPLOITED BY MANAGEMENT WORSE'N YOU EVER WAS, BUDDY-BOY!
AND NOW WIT' DA ROBORIGHTS BILL --AND A LITTLE MUSCLE TO BACK US UP-- WE'RE GONNA EVEN THE SCORE A BIT, EH BIGROB?
DUH-H YEAH, RIGHT ON— WHATEVER YOU SAY, BUGSY!

LOOK, DR. ELEPUN, HE'S COMING AROUND!
OOG! I FEEL YUCKY!
ASTRO, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
YES... WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? WHY AM I IN THIS CHAMBER?
YOUR MICRO-REACTOR WENT WILD! FORTUNATELY THE AUTOMATIC SAFEGUARD SYSTEM SHUT IT DOWN BEFORE YOU --
--BLEW UP! JUST LIKE POOR AS*@-CLUNK DID!
WHO?
ONE OF DR. BOYNTON'S EARLIER EXP-ERIMENTS -- *
-BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT-- I'VE GOT TO GO AFTER ARCHIE!
* ASTRO BOY #1!
WAIT! YOU'RE STILL GIVING OFF A HIGH LEVEL OF RADIATION!
THIS IS TERRIBLE! THEN THOSE PARENTS FEARS WEREN'T UNFOUNDED! I AM A MENACE!

NOT AT ALL! THE FAILSAFE WORKED—
THIS TIME MAYBE! BUT WHAT ABOUT NEXT TIME?! DR. ELEFUN, YOU MUST INSTALL A LESS DANGEROUS POWER IN ME!
BUT YOU CAN GO FOR MONTHS ON A MINISCULE ATOMIC FUEL CELL— IF WE SWITCH TO HI-DENSITY BATTERY PACKS YOU'LL HAVE TO RE-CHARGE CONSTANTLY...
...AND USING YOUR LASERS OR JETS WILL DEPLETE YOUR POWER SOONER
I DON'T CARE! IN THE INTREST OF SAFETY FOR ALL THOSE AROUND ME, YOU MUST DO IT! NOW!!
VERY WELL, ASTRO!

AWRIGHT, AGENT R, WHERE THE DEVIL IS HE—?!
UH, I'M NOT SURE, SIR— WE LOST HIM A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO AND——
WELL, SEND THAT STUPID "MEGATHREAT" OUT AND FIND HIM, YOU IMBECILE!
-AND HOW'S THAT KID DOING?
OH, JES' FINE, SIR— SEE FOR YOURSELF——
WHAT THE—! YOU PIN-HEADED... THAT'S MY SON!
IT IS? YOW, ER, UH, GEE, SORRY YOUR IMMENSENESS, BUT YOU DID TELL US TO GRAB ONE OF ASTRO'S SCHOOLMATES...
GET HIM OUTTA THERE NOW!! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO MY BOY...!
YESSIR, YESSIR!
MEGATHREAT, GET THE KID!

CRASH!
WOWSERS!! — IT MUST BE --
--ASTROBOY! QUICK, IS THE NUCLEAR NEUTRALIZER READY?!
YUP, IT'LL DRAIN HIS POWERPILE IN A FLASH!
RIGHT! WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?!
ME, YOU LITTLE TWERP — TAKE THIS!!
HAHAHA!! HAHA!!
ZRAT!
WELL, IT DOES TICKLE —!
WHAT THE —? I DON'T GET IT! IT'S NOT WORKING!
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED? OH WELL, ENOUGH OF THESE SHENANIGANS — WHERE'S ARCHIE?!

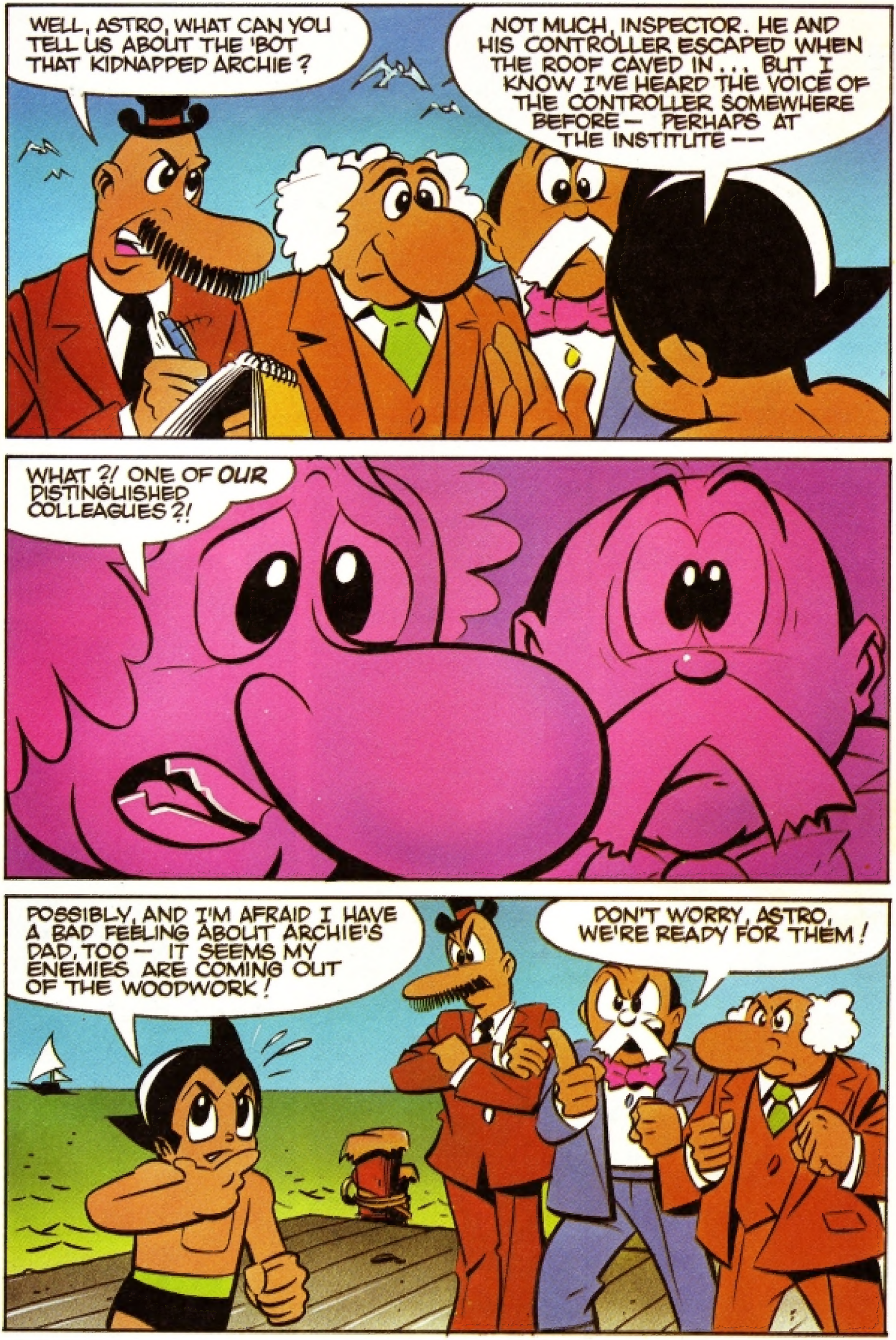
SOMEWHERE YOU'LL NEVER FIND HIM! HAHAHA!!
HERE-IS-THE-BOY-AS-YOU ORDERED-MASTER-WHAT-SHALL I-DO-WITH-HIM-? *CLIK*
EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE DAYS WHEN NOTHING GOES RIGHT?
THANKS, YOU JUST SAVED ME HAVING TO TAKE THIS PLACE APART!
PUT ME DOWN!! ASTRO, SAVE ME! TWIST HIS HEAD OFF!
DROP HIM, YOU!!

BZAT!
HEY, THERES A SPOT ON YOUR TIE!
WHAT- WHERE?
THERE!!
VARP!

THE MAIN SUPPORT BRACE— IT'S COLLAPSING! I'VE GOTTA GET ELSEWHERE, EVEN! MEGATHREAT, COME HERE, QUICK!
CREAK! GROAN!
I'LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER!
ARCHIE, HOLD YOUR BREATH!
WHOOSH!
OH NO, MY JETS ARE FAILING— COULD I HAVE USED UP THAT MUCH ENERGY ALREADY?!
I MUST MAKE ...IT... TO... ...THE... ...SURFACE!
ASTRO, SPUTTER, KOFF-KOFF!! ASTRO, SPEAK TO ME!

THERE THEY ARE, QUICK, GET THEM A LINE!
HELP!! OVER HERE!!
WITH THIS FRESH BATTERY HE SHOULD BE GOOD AS NEW...
ARCHIE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
YEAH, I GUESS SO... YOU'RE ALL RIGHT YERSELF Y'KNOW— FOR A ROBOT!
THANKS! THEN WE CAN BE FRIENDS!
EH, DON'T PUSH YER LUCK! I GOT ALL THE FRIENDS MONEY CAN BUY!

RESCUE
ARCHIE, ARCHIE MY BOY! ARE YOU HURT?! I WAS SO WORRIED!
DON'T GETCHER TONSILS IN AN UPROAR! I'LL LIVE!
BAIT
AND THIS MUST BE THE HEROIC LITTLE 'BOT WHO SAVED YOU FROM THAT NEFARIOUS MACHINE— LISTEN, MY LAD, HOW'D YOU LIKE A JOB AT MEGACORP?
OH, BARF! WILL YOU EASE UP A BIT, POP!?
ER, THANKS, BUT NO MR. BARGY— I'M GOING BACK TO SCHOOL. BESIDES, MEGACORP IS A MAJOR PRODUCER OF INDUSTRIAL ROBOTS... AND THE NEW ROBORIGHTS BILL HAS FINALLY FREED US FROM YOUR INFLUENCE.
WHAT!? WHY I NEVER--
YES YOU HAVE, POP. C'MON, LET'S GO.


WELL, ASTRO, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE 'BOT THAT KIDNAPPED ARCHIE?
NOT MUCH, INSPECTOR. HE AND HIS CONTROLLER ESCAPED WHEN THE ROOF CAVED IN... BUT I KNOW I'VE HEARD THE VOICE OF THE CONTROLLER SOMEWHERE BEFORE— PERHAPS AT THE INSTITUTE--
WHAT?! ONE OF OUR DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES?!
POSSIBLY, AND I'M AFRAID I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT ARCHIE'S DAD, TOO— IT SEEMS MY ENEMIES ARE COMING OUT OF THE WOODWORK!
DON'T WORRY, ASTRO, WE'RE READY FOR THEM!

HI, BOSS! HOW YA FEELIN'?
LISSEN, YOU MANGY MORON, IF I HADN'T FALLEN DOWN THAT MANHOLE IT'D BE YOU WHO'S IN TRACTION...
AND RIGHTFULLY SO, I GOTTA ADMIT... HEY, LOOK WHAT I GOTCHA, THAT BACK ISSUE OF MUTEX THE MUTANT MARVEL YOU WERE LOOKIN' FOR! IN NEAR-MINT CONDITION, TOO!
MUTEX
THE MUTANT MARVEL
NOT JUST ANOTHER MUTANT!
OBOY! GIMMEGIMME!
WOW! STORY BY CLAIR CHRISMONT, ART BY JACK BRINE, AND AUSTIN TERRENCE, AND LETTERED BY TOM ORSOLIDARNOSC!
Y'KNOW, MUTEX WAS THE MOST POWERFUL BEING ON EARTH UNTIL THE ADVENT OF CYBOTICS... WHICH GIVES ME A TRULY ROTTEN IDEA!
I JUST LOVE IT WHEN YOU TALK DIRTY, BOSS — LETS HEAR IT!
HEH-HEH-HEH!
NEXT-
THE PERNICIOUS PLAN!

ASTRO FANS!

Dear Sir-

Here is my list of Astro-Facts.

1. Billie Lou 'Watt provided Astro Boy's voice.

2. The original TV theme was written by Tatsuo Takai (music) and Don Rock Well (lyrics).

3. Mushi Studios was founded by Osamu Tesuka in 1961.

4. Astro Boy can hear far away by using his ultrasonic ears.

5. Ray Owens provided Dr. Elefuns voice.

6. Astro Boy was not programmed any human emotions until later.

7. Astro can lift tremendous weights--no matter how heavy it is!

8. Astro can fly at a speed of Mach 3.

Yours Sincerely, Jack Nelson, Fargo, N.D.

Thanks for the info Jack.

Dear Mr. Caputo,

I just wanted to write, because I'm very impressed with your company and its products. At first, when I heard there would be Speed Racer and Astro Boy comics, I was somewhat sceptical. I'd seen other Japanese animation properties in a comics form, and honestly I didn't like them. Call me a purist, I just never liked the US adaptations of what I consider beautiful styles of artwork. But, being an animation fan, I couldn't leave these books on the racks. Astro Boy is great! Ken Steacy's style sort of reminds me of animation cels. Speed Racer has slowly worked it's way into my heart. It's improved so much since the preview in Dai Kamikaze (and that wasn't bad).

What 've realized is that fan support demanded these books, and will keep them alive even if the quality disappears. But it won't. There is a great fan network out there, and I feel these two books are really produced for the fans. The letters page shows that you're giving these people back memories from their childhood. I think that gift is truly the best any publisher can hope to give a fan. At the same time, the generation that were not born in time to run home to watch Speed Racer and Astro Boy, like mine, are given the chance to acquaint themselves, with the characters. Speed Racer is a great action/adventure book, that I feel would have made it without the animation boost. I feel you are paying us back however, with the Speed Racer specials.

The technical information about the Mach Five is priceless (in the first).

The second will be amazing! Colored by Ken Steacy and original story by Speed's creator, and a flexi-disc for $3.50. A total package, total value, and totally awesome! The upcoming Racer-X series is just another sign of how Now Comics is answering fan's requests. Letters requesting Racer-X pour in, and the book hits the stands! Not many companies respond so vigorously to fan requests. The best part is that the stories are all-new! No adaptations (except roughly origin wise). Also, your Terminator series looks great, from the pencils I've seen, and the storyline sounds great too! The Real Ghostbusters just plain deserves a comic, and I know your guys will do a great job. Fright Night also sparks some interest. Tony, keep up the great work.

My only suggestion is establishing a tape trading network for guys like me, who have (Gasp!) never seen a Speed Racer or Astro Boy cartoon. (I have, however, heard Speed's theme song in my younger days) Great Work!

Sincerely,
Mark Glilden
NEW YORK, NY 10009

Thanks for the letter, Mark.

Now Comics,

Today I read the letters page in Astro Boy #5. I was shocked and amazed to see a letter printed, written by that well-known South

Florida home invader William Bernard ["Big"] Vogel. I say well known because, for the past three and a half years, myself, my partner, and most of our close circle of clientele associated with our comic stores have braved having our own homes invaded by continual exposure to Mr. "Big" Vogel.

His story began at the tender age of 14. A mere sapling, he was beginning to acquire those characteristics that make him the feared "Uncle Biggy" he is today. While stalking the hallways of ninthe grade, he was often subjected to the term "fat boy" used by others in relation to his physical dimensions.

His immediate reaction to the term was to slam the name caller's head into the nearest locker and to return to his own locker to seek comfort from the "Bottle of Jack" safely nestled within. [He kept several lockers to throw the cops off the trail of his liquor escapades.] Now, 9 years after his humble beginnings, "Big" Vogel continues to terrorize as a mound among men. A vigilanty night-watchman in a secluded suburban neighborhood, "Big" must seek his 13-15 hours of repose during the daylight hours. Thus, unfortunately, "Big" did not hear the U-Haul backing up to his house the day the rest of his family moved away. Yes, Mom, Pop, brother, sister, and pets all left, to seek a life without the burden of "Uncle Biggy".

That evening, at around 11 p.m., still bleary-eyed from sleep- "Big' trotted off the his guard post, subconsciously wondering why the house was so dark and quiet. Not giving it a second thought he proceeded to work stopping at each fast food restaurant equipped with a drive-thru window for quick snacks, of course. In the wee hours of that morning while "Big" was snacking and guarding, a new family moved into his house. Days later, realizing the people moving in and out of their rooms were not his own family, "Big" felt it might be best to hide-not to risk being discovered. Under beds, in closets, "Big would sleep and lurk everywhere.

Soon his nimble mind devised an extortion scheme to get little Tommy to bring his dinner up to his room. The scene at dinner went something like this: "Mommy, can I have an extra 6 or 7 pieces of meat and two potatoes?" "Why, certainly Tommy, my but you have a big appetite-you must be growing!" "No son, stay here and eat with the family." "Please Mom, [panicking] please?" "My favorite show is on." "I said no, Tommy." "But I have to, [crying] I have to! If I don't...the fat man will get me!!" "My George, what an active imagination he has!" Little do the know.

And so, "Big's" home invasion techniques began and were perfected; Nowadays "Big" can invade a home without even consciously thinking about it! Recently he invaded our North store and established his own "fat area" [place of power] in the front portion. Now, daily, a representative of our store must battle him in his "fat area". If they ever lose the fat man is free to invade their houses. Due to these exploits, we have decided to use "Big" as the focal point of many songs, films and advertising campaigns pertaining to our stores. [See the Tropec Comics Inc. Ad in the new Overstreet Price Guide #18 pg. 446.] If you want to hear more of the adventures of William Bernard "Big" Vogel, and believe me , there are plenty, please print this letter--more will follow.

Thank you, Rob and John Tropic Comics Inc.
Ft. Lauderdale and
Miami, FL

Only in America.

NEXT ISSUE:
THE RETURN OF THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANT HERO
MUTEX
Be there in four weeks!